LOK SABHA

Friday, May 9, 1997/Vaisakha 19, 1919 (Saka)

The Lok Sabha met at two minutes past Eleven of the Clock

[SHRI CHITTA BASU *in the Chair*]

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Hon, Members, this is for the first time that I am in the Chair during Question Hour. It would be my endeavour to see that as many hon. Members as possible are allowed and I seek your cooperation with all humility.

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

[Translation]

Workers Participation in Management

*481. SHRI RAMENDRA KUMAR: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether worker's participation in management scheme has been implemented in all Public Sector units of coal industry;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether production has increased after implementation of this scheme; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH): (a) to (d): A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) and (b): The scheme of workers' participation in management of public sector coal companies is broadly in conformity with scheme of 1983 notified by the Government in so far as it relates to the levels of participation, subjects to be included for discussion and the method of arriving at a decision.

The joint participative/consultative fora have been operating at the following levels:

(I) Corporate level

(ii) Subsidiary companies

(a) Company level

(b) Area level

(c) Colliery level

At corporate level: All policy matters relating to wages and service conditions of employees, production, productivity, cost, health, welfare, safety and all such policy matters which may have a direct bearing on the industry.

At other than corporate level: Production, productivity, cost, health, welfare, safety and employees' grievances which may be raised from time to time.

(c) and (d): The participative approach to management at the area level and colliery level has made a basic contribution towards reduction in mandays lost due to strikes/bandhs, etc, and has helped in the improvement of industrial relations climate in the organisation. These in turn have contributed to overall increase in production and productivity. To illustrate, in the case of Coal India Ltd.

	1994-95	1995-95	1996-97 (Prov.)
Production (M.T.)	221.54	237.05	250.65
Output per man-shift (Tonnes)	1.62	1.75	1.82

SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH: Mr. Chairman, Sir, with your permission I would like to state that there is variance in the Hindi and English texts of Lok Sabha Starred Question No. 481. It is an unprecedented incident. Information about Public undertakings have been sought in the English text, whereas in the Hindi version, information have been sought with regard to the private sector. The answer has been prepared by the Ministry cn the basis of the English text of the Question. The error so committed, is regretted.

SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ: Mr. Chairman Sir, if you see that foot note it has been written in it.

[English]

'Original notice of the question received in Hindi'

[Translation]

It means that the question was originally in Hindi, then why the reply was prepared on the basis of the English version. I could not understand it. If there is difference in the text, it might have occured due to the mistake of the translator. But if the answer had been prepared on the basis of the Hindi text of the question taking in view that the question was originally in Hindi. Member asking question would have received the desired answer. Why the reply was prepared on the basis of English version which was wrong?... *(Inerruptions)*

SHRI SATYA PAL JAIN: Mr. Chairman, Sir yesterday also the same thing happened. Yesterday also there was wrong reply of a question in Hindi. The question and its answer, both were altogether different.

SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH: Mr Chairman, Sir, I have received this Hindi version of the question only at 9. A.M. this morning and the answer given by us was based on English version of the question, which I had already sent to the Secretariat yesterday. Therefore, the answer is regarding all public sector undertakings. The answer has been laid on the table of the House.

SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ: Mr. Chairman, Sir, I request you to postpone this question for the next sitting of the House.

SHRI SHATRUGHAN PRASAD SINGH: Mr. Chairman, Sir, such thing has happened yesterday also. 'Prakhand' was translated as 'Anumandal' and 'Up-Parimandal'. The mistakes in translation are being committed very frequently. The translation of the original question is altogether different from the question. It is a serious matter. We want your ruling in this regard so that such mistakes do not recur.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: There has been a reply in English also. I think the hon. Minister will reply to the supplementaries. If any points are there, the Minister will reply.

[Translation]

SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ: But due to wrong English translation, the sense of the question has totally got changed.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Allow me to continue with the Question Hour, please. If the questioner points out certain things, he can very well do it at the time of his raising his supplementaries.

[Translation]

SHRI RAMENDRA KUMAR: The Minister has just now said that her ministry had received this question in English and therefore, she is replying taking into consideration the English text of the question. In English the question is whether workers participation scheme has been implemented in the Public Sector. The Minister has replied only with regard to Coal India. I would like to ask whether Coal India is the only Public Sector undertaking and whether there is no other Public Sector undertaking except it? There is Sigreni coalfields in Andhra Pradesh which is also a public undertaking. Neyveli Lignite is also in the coal Sector, that is also a Public undertaking; why the Minister did not cover it in his reply.

The second thing which I want to say is that with regard to coal India it has been replied that talks are held with the representatives of workers on the corporate level, but this scheme is not for holding talks. I know that there is a Joint Negotiation Committee at the level of Coal India which holds talks on matters like the wages of the workers, and their Service conditions etc. but my original question is whether in Coal India, there is any representation of workers in its Board of management? So how the selection of the representatives of workers is made for the Board of Management. The Minister may please reply clearly.

SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH: Mr. Chairman, Sir, there is no participation of workers at Board level. When there is no representation of workers in the board of management the question of their participation does not arise. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI K.D. SULTANPURI: The National Language should not be insulted in translation when the original question is in Hindi, the answer should also be given in the context of the Hindi text of the question.

[English]

SHRI PRITHVIRAJ D. CHAVAN: Sir, who is officially responsible for wrong translation? You must fix the responsibility for wrong transiation.

MR. CHAIRMAN: We shall get it examined.

SHRI PRITHVIRAJ D. CHAVAN: Somebody has made a mistake either at the Secretariat level or the Ministry level.

MR. CHAIRMAN: As I said, we shall get it examined.

SHRI PRITHVIRAJ D. CHAVAN: One cannot turn upside down. Kindly fix the responsibility.

MR. CHAIRMAN: All right. We cannot fix responsibility just now. Your point has been taken note of and the matter will be examined.

[Translation]

SHRI RAMENDRA KUMAR: Before asking the second supplementary I would like to draw the attention of the House and the Chair to this fact that in the reply given by the Government, it has been stated that workers participation scheme has been implemented at all levels but hon'ble Minister is replying here that workers participation scheme has not been implemented at Board level in Coal India. The Minister may please reply as to why there is contradiction in both these answers? Which reply of the Minister may be considered as true because on the one hand, the Government says that this scheme has been implemented at all levels but why this scheme has not been implemented in coal India? Why such answer was given, why there is such contradiction? Mr. Chairman, Sir, I want you to ask the Government why this mistake was made why the House was misguided. It is a serious issue. I urge upon you to take necessary action in this regard at your level.

In this regard, I would like to know from the Government that if there is no provision for workers' participation at the Board level in Coal India, whether in all the subsidiaries of Coal India, such as E.C.L, P.C.C.L, P.C.L, W.S.L, A.C.L. etc, I don't want to name there all. Uniform schemes have been implemented or different schemes have been implemented in them? What is the position regarding their meetings. Whether these are on annual

basis, or half yearly basis or quarterly basis? and whether it Is not a fact that workers participation scheme has not been implemented in each company? Whether regular meetings are hold or it is hold once in six months, for months or three months and what action being taken by the Government to implement the workers participation scheme effectively?

Mr. Chairman, Sir, whether the Government propose to include the representatives of workers in the board of the company under the workers participation scheme?

SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH: Mr. Chairman, Sir, as far as the question of all companies is concerned, there is uniform pattern participation in all companies National Forum for participation has been set up. The issue like welfare measures for workers, production cost, Health, Welfare, security and the grievances of the employees are taken up in it and steps are taken for removal of various problems of the workers. Workers are consulted. Joint crisis Committee has been set up for coal industry which I.N.T.U.C, I.T.U.C, C.P.U.S., H.M.S, and B.M.S. are representated and its meetings are held on quarterly basis.

SHRI BHERU LAL MEENA: Mr. Chairman, Sir, as I am working for the employees of Hindustan Zinc, as their representative, I very well know that what does mean participation should be on the top level, in J.P.C. The day-to-day problems of workers and matters related with production are discussed in the meeting with top level management. From the reply of the Minister it appears that there is no participation of workers in management there. The officers know as to what does workers participation mean and where there is workers participation in management such irregularities can not be committed there and the problems of workers get automatically solved. Therefore, I would like to know as to in which fields and what type of workers participation is there? Won't do if you merely say that participation is not there at the top level only. It should be stated separately that on which level and what type of participation is there?

SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH: Mr. Chairman, Sir, so far as the participation of workers is concerned it is there in the matters like Housing, education, entertainment and environmental works. There is also an internal call for removal of public Grievances, so far as industrial relations, is concerned, the Government have increased the salaries of employees and also the welfare schemes in C.I.L. I have got statistics in this regard.

Hon'ble Chairman, Sir, the number of strikes in the year 1992-93 was 53. Today the number of strikes is 27. During the year 1992-93 there was a loss of 535852 mandays whereas 120407 in the year 1996-97 witnessed loss of 120407 mandays. The loss in production ...*(Interruptions)* If there was no participation ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: This is a part of the question.

[Translation]

SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH: It was Rs. 531.334 per metric ton in the year 1992-93 and Rs. 162283 per metric ton in the year 1996-97. If we see statistics on this basis it reveals that there has been participation of workers in Management in each and every field and that's why we have been able to progress day by day. Due to their participation the number of strikes have also decreased. In welfare works the Consultative Committee consulted all the employees and all the workers participate in all the welfare activities. Therefore we have reached at with there participation we have reached a stage where even the loss incurring companies are making profit.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: Mr. Chairman, Sir, the statistics given by the Minister show that workers have participated in saving and gearing up this company. But type of workers participation, which we want is not there in Coal India and its subsidiaries. If there was participation, there should be the participation of workers in policy making we want that there should be participation of workers in policy making.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Will there be participation in management also?

[Translation]

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: Would you take any concrete steps to make the share holding of the Government of India meaningful in Coal India and its subsidieries such as C.M.P.D.I.L, so that there may be participation of workers in policy making.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: There are other important questions. Please put your question.

[Translation]

Three year were taken in finalising N.C.W.S.-5 sofar whereas N.C.W.S.-6 has also become due. You are not at all aware of it.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Mr. Acharia ji, you ask the question.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: I would like to ask whether the Minister would take any concrete steps to make this participation meaningful and ensure the participation of workers in Coal management?

SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH: Mr. Chairman, Sir we would consider the suggestions made by the hon'ble member and take the action thereon if needed.

SHRI BANWARI LAL PUROHIT: Mr. Chairman, Sir, Shri Basu Deb Acharia has just said that there should be participation of workers in policy making. In the reply, you have expressed satisfaction regarding industrial relations. It is all right. But the policy of the Government is against Coal industry. As per the speech of Finance Minister import

duty had been reduced from 85 per cent to 30 percent, later to 20 percent and now it has been reduced to 10 percent. The orders for lacs of tons of Coal are being signed. If the imported coal reaches India, it will cause unemployment because the coal based mills will close down. If there had been workers' participation for protection of their interest, this bid would have been opposed but you are not able to do it. I would like to know as to what the Govt. is doing to stop this import which is posing a serious danger to entire coal industry?

SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH: Mr. Chairman, Sir, so far as the question of effecting reduction in the import duty is concerned, it is a policy matter. I do admit that it will increase the competitiveness in PSUs and they will increase their production more and more so that the coal is not imported.

SHRI MADHUKAR SARPOTDAR: Mr. Chairman, Sir, I would like to know whether the concept of workers' participation in management is practised in reality? The Govt. has mentioned in the statement that while revising the wages, a discussion is held with the representatives of workers. You have cited an example of coal India, telling that a strike took place there and mandays were increased. I would like to know as to how many unions are there in the undertaking under the department of coal, the number of recognised unions out of them and the unions which have been given representations in the committee? You stated that they are consulted while revising the wages but the wage revision had been done long back. It has well there is a mention of increased production in your reply but where the issue of workers' participation in the management has been covered in it? What are the details of the efforts made by the management to increase the productivity?

SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH: Mr. Chairman, Sir, there are five recognised unions in Coal India Ltd, viz. INTUC, AITUC, CITU, HMS and B.M.S. They are consulted at the level of JBCCI of CIL. So far as the participation of other trade unions is concerned, due to non emerging of any consensus among various trade unions, it has not been dicided as to how many representatives of the workers will be there in the management and what will be mode of their representations. Therefore, their representatives are being consulted of various levels.

[English]

Pending Court Cases

*462. SHRI HANNAN MOLLAH:

SHRI B.L. SHANKAR:

Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of cases pending in different High Courts and Supreme Court since 2 years, 5 years, 10 years and above ten years:

(b) the details thereof High Court-wise and Supreme Court, separately; and

(c) the details of the steps the Government have taken for expeditious disposal of those cases?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI RAMAKANT D. KHALAP): (a) and (b): A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

(c) Apart from amending the procedural laws from time to time, Government has taken a series of steps to simplify procedures and speed up disposal of cases on the basis of the advice and recommendations of expert bodies like the Law Commission. Conferences of Law Ministers, Chief Ministers and Chief Justices and other concerned with the administration of Justice are held periodically and the recommendations and conclusions emerging from such exchanges and consultations are implemented and their progress closely monitored.

Statement

Pendency of cases in High Courts (As on 31.12.1996)

Sl. No	Name of the Court	Upto 2 year	Over 2 years and upto 5 years	Over 5 years and upto 10 years	Over 10 years	Total
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1	Allahabad	195,029	232,921	263,106	174,399	865,455
2	Andhra Pradesh	71,190	47,169	16,953	309	135,621
3	Bombay	79,392	75,223	61,531	17,912	234,058
4	Calcutta	50,182	43,634	80,286	90,210	264,312
5	Delhi	43,391	34,895	42,808	32,443	153,537
6	Gauhati	21,687	8,590	2,671	70	33,018